

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L 4122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SF, NO

SUBJ: MILTILATERAL AFFAIRS: NORWEGIANS TO FOCUS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN
ISSUES AT UNGA: MEET AGAIN NEXT MONTH WITH NORDICS ON ISSUES

REF: (A) OSLO 3888, (B) COPENHAGEN 2799

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SUMMARY: NORWEGIANS EMPHASIZED SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES DURING RECENT
NORDIC UN PREPARATIONS AND ARE MEETING WITH NORDIC COUNTERPARTS
NEXT MONTH TO COORDINATE VIEWS AND TRY TO DEVELOP COMMON APPROACHES
TO ISSUES AT UNGA. NORWEGIANS ARE PREPARING TO CHANGE THEIR
POSITION FROM OPPOSITION TO ABSTENSION ON GENERAL SOUTH AFRICAN
RESOLUTION IN UNGA THIS YEAR.

1. IN BRIEF REVIEW OF NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTER MEETING AUGUST 19-20
IN COPENHAGEN, MFA DIVISION CHIEF FOR UN AFFAIRS , JAN NYHEIM,
LAID SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON NORWAY'S DESIRE TO AID IN FORWARDING
STRONG WESTERN POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES AT UPCOMING
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UNGA. NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND LED NORDIC MINISTERS

DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES IN COPENHAGEN. MIDDLE LEVEL NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS APPARENTLY HAVE DECIDED TO MEET AGAIN AT HELSINKI TO COORDINATE AND DEVELOP AS COMMON APPROACHES AS POSSIBLE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. MEETING IS EXPECTED TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 10 AND MAY CONFLICT IN TIMING WITH PLANNED NATO EXPERTS DISCUSSION OF UN ISSUES EARLY IN MONTH.

2. NYHEIM SAID NORWEGIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS SHOULD NOT APPEAR TO LAG BEHIND THEIR EASTERN COUNTERPARTS IN SUPPORTING BLACK AFRICAN MOVEMENTS AND SHOULD DEVELOP POSITIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA WHICH KEPT UP WITH RAPIDLY CHANGING EVENTS THERE. HE SAID GON WELCOMED INCREASING ATTENTION SECRETARY HAS DEVOTED TO AFRICAN MATTERS. HE SAID IT SEEMED LIKELY THIS YEAR THAT NORWAY WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE GENERAL SOUTH AFRICAN RESOLUTION RATHER THAN VOTE AGAINST AS THEY DID LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION PROVISIONS. HE SAID THEY EXPECTED EXPULSION LANGUAGE HAS BEEN TONED DOWN SUFFICIENTLY THIS YEAR FOR NORWAY TO ABSTAIN WITH AN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT. END CONFIDENTIAL

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3. IN COPENHAGEN PRESS CONFERENCE WITH NORWEGIAN REPORTERS AUG 20 FRYDENLUND HIGHLIGHTED NORDIC MINISTERS SOUTHERN AFRICAN DISCUSSIONS SAYING (A) HE FEARED THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION WOULD SET OFF A RACE WAR (B) NORWAY IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW UP ON ALL UN SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTION PROPOSALS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND (C) WEAPONS EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA IS A NATO QUESTION IN AS MUCH AS FRANCE EXPORTS WEAPONS TO THE COUNTRY. END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM NYHEIM'S REPORT AND COPENHAGEN 2799 THAT NORDIC COUNTRIES PLAN TO PUT PRIORITY ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES IN UPCOMING UNGA. WE BELIEVE THE NATO MEMBERS NORDICS SHOULD TAKE ACTIVE PART IN NATO EXPERTS DISCUSSION, AND ARE CONCERNED FROM WHAT NYHEIM SAYS THAT NEXT MONTH'S WORKING LEVEL NORDIC MEETING MAY CONFLICT WITH FINAL DAY OF NATO MEETING ON UN CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTERS. FIVE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS, MEETING CONFLICT COULD MEAN THAT KEY NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT NOT TAKE PART IN NATO TALKS. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT NYHEIM OUR HOPE HE CAN PARTICIPATE IN NATO MEETING. HE TOLD US AUG 25 HE IS CONSULTING WITH SCANDINAVIAN, AND PARTICULARLY DANISH, COLLEAGUES TO SEE IF TIME OF NORDIC MEETING CAN BE CHANGED. IF OCCASION OR SUBJECT ARISES AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AND US MISSION NATO MIGHT WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEIR RESPECTIVE NORDIC COLLEAGUES

TO SEEK AVOID DATE CONFLICT TO ENABLE EXPERTS TAKE PART IN
NATO DISCUSSION
END CONFIDENTIAL.
ANDERS

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